



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



## Drought Update

### Tuesday, June 16, 2015

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#### **KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK**

- **State Water Board Announces Curtailments for Senior Water Right Holders:** On June 12, the State Water Board issued curtailment notices to [senior water rights holders](#) in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River watersheds and the Delta. The notices direct water rights holders with a priority date of 1903 or later to stop diversions of water until further notice. The curtailment notices affect 276 pre-1914 appropriative water rights held by 114 rights holders.

These curtailments are the latest in a series of actions affecting water rights holders. The State Water Board began issuing curtailment notices in April and May to junior water right holders in several watersheds. About 9,100 post-1914 water right holders already have been curtailed.

- **Proposed Emergency Regulation in Four Russian River Tributary Watersheds:** On June 6, the State Water Board [announced](#) a proposed emergency regulation to provide a minimum amount of water in [four Russian River tributaries](#) to protect Central California Coast Coho salmon and steelhead from low oxygen levels, high water temperatures and stranded pools due to the severe drought conditions. The proposed regulation would affect about 13,000 properties in the 113 square miles encompassed by the watersheds of the four tributaries which include Dutch Bill, Green Valley, Mark West and Mill Creeks. The proposed emergency regulation will be considered by the Board on June 17.
- **State Water Board Releases Updated Listing of Water Conservation Tiers:** On June 5, the State Water Board [released](#) an updated [listing](#) of the Urban Water Supplier Conservation Tiers that reflect water agencies' changes to their calculation of residential gallons per capita per day (R-GPCD). The water conservation tiers, which are based on each supplier's R-GPCD, range from 8% to 36% and reflect the mandated conservation goals that water suppliers must attain compared to water production data for the same months in 2013.

The State Water Board adopted emergency regulations mandating a 25% reduction in urban water use on May 5. The regulations establish 8 tiers of increasing levels of conservation for the 411 urban water suppliers in the state. The regulations were approved by the Office of Administrative Law on May 18, and will be in effect until February 13, 2016. The first reports documenting progress towards the 25% conservation standard will be due on July 15.

- **State Water Board Announces Workshop on Water Conservation Pricing:** On June 11, the State Water Board [announced](#) the Conservation Pricing Workshop on July 8 to solicit public input regarding the efficacy of conservation water pricing and the implementation of conservation pricing consistent with Proposition 218 and the recent San Juan Capistrano case. The State Water Board will hear from state agencies, water suppliers, and other stakeholders on the financial, technical, political, and legal challenges associated with changing rates, surcharges, and other fees.

- **Agencies Held Tribal Consultation on Proposition 1 Water Bond:** On June 9-10, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in partnership with several agencies, [held](#) a two-day tribal government consultation meeting to address questions regarding the Proposition 1 Water Bond. The \$7.45 billion general obligation bond authorizes funding for water projects including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem, watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection.
- **Obama Administration Announces Federal Drought Support for Western States:** On June 12, President Barack Obama announced a [federal aid package](#) to support farmers and workers suffering from drought, provide food assistance, support water efficiency and conservation, and combat wildfire in California and other drought-stricken Western states. California is expected to receive \$18 million from the Department of Labor to provide jobs for works dislocated by the drought and another \$7 million from the USDA to support conservation and water system improvements for water utilities and households coping with drought.
- **Federal Agencies Stress Need to Reform Wildfire Funding System:** On June 9, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and U.S. Forest Service [highlighted](#) the growing threat of catastrophic wildfires in drought-stricken areas of the West this year and called for reforms in the way the federal government funds wildfire suppression efforts. The Forest Service and DOI expect 2015 to continue the trend of above average fire activity. These reforms are necessary to ensure that federal land managers can continue to protect national parks, national forests, public and tribal lands from the destructive force of wildfires, without starving other important work around fire prevention, trail upkeep and habitat restoration.
- **California's Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** This past week, Save Our Water secured media placements for summer messaging and launches on June 22. In addition, numerous agencies are interested in partnering with Save Our Water (SOW) on media buys in their service areas. Toyota is incorporating SOW's "Californians Don't Waste" public service announcement (PSA) into summer local marketing efforts, while Mel's Diner added SOW table tents to restaurant locations throughout California. Additionally, actor David Walton was filmed for an online PSA, which is being finalized for production by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

For easy-to-use water saving tips, visit [saveourwater.com](http://saveourwater.com), and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). For the new Spanish-language Save Our Water campaign website, visit [ahorrenuestraagua.com](http://ahorrenuestraagua.com).

- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Task Force continues to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought. During the most recent Task Force meeting on June 11, the California Energy Commission reported that the agency held the first public workshop on June 2 to provide information on the new Water Energy Technology (WET) Program. The second public workshop for the WET Program has been scheduled for June 29 in Chico, CA.

The Department of Water Resources reported that the model ordinance program will release the draft guidelines for public review on June 12, and close on June 26. The California Water Commission is scheduled to review the program guidelines on July 15.

## **ONGOING DROUGHT SUPPORT**

- **Emergency Food Aid, Rental and Utility Assistance:** The Department of Social Services (CDSS) has provided to date over 700,150 boxes of food to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Approximately 630,200 boxes of food have been picked up by 331,015 households. By June 19, an additional 13,163 boxes will be delivered to Fresno, Kern, Kings, San Joaquin, Santa Cruz, and Tulare County.

The non-profit group La Cooperativa continues to distribute the \$10 million state-funded emergency rental assistance to families and individuals across counties most impacted by the drought. As of June 4, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reported that a total of \$8,750,764 have been issued to 5,909 applicants in 21 counties, with \$6,236 remaining in assistance funds.

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) allocated an additional \$600,000, under the federally-funded Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), to continue the [Drought Water Assistance Program \(DWAP\)](#) which provides financial assistance to help low-income families pay their water bills. As of June 5, CSD has reported that a total of \$109,257 has been issued to 573 households.

CSD is in the process of allocating \$400,000, under CSBG, to continue the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) drought assistance program, which provides assistance in employment training and placement services to individuals impacted by the drought. This program provides employment training and placement services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers suffering job loss or reduced employment due to the drought. CSD will receive the first report of expenditures on July 20.

- **Drought Response Funding:** The \$687 million in state drought funding that was appropriated last March through emergency legislation, as well as \$142 million provided in the 2014 Budget Act, continues to advance toward meeting critical needs. To date, \$468 million has been committed, and nearly \$625 million of the emergency funds appropriated in March came from sources dedicated to capital improvements to water systems. Since March, the Department of Water Resources has expedited grant approvals, getting \$21 million immediately allocated to grantees that were pre-approved for certain projects.

As planned in March, the next \$200 million of expedited capital funding was awarded in October, and the remaining \$250 million will be granted by fall 2015. The 2014 Budget Act appropriated an additional \$53.8 million to CAL FIRE over its typical budget to enhance firefighter surge capacity and retain seasonal firefighters beyond the typical fire season.

As a result of continuing drought conditions, emergency legislation was enacted in March 2015 that appropriated over \$1 billion of additional funds for drought-related projects and activities. The Administration's May Revision proposal includes an additional \$2.2 billion for programs that protect and expand local water supplies, improve water conservation, and provide immediate relief to impacted communities.

## **CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

- **Fire Activity:** Since the beginning of the year, CAL FIRE has responded to over 2,150 wildfires across the state, burning 7,455 acres in the State Responsibility Area (SRA). This fire activity is above the five year average for the same time period with 1,405 fires and 11,725 acres burned. CAL FIRE staffing is at peak staffing throughout the state.
- **CAL FIRE Suspends Outdoor Residential Burning:** To date, CAL FIRE has suspended all burn permits for outdoor open residential burning in Calaveras, Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kings, Marin, Mono, Monterey, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne County. CAL FIRE anticipates that burn bans will be instituted statewide by the end of June.

This suspension bans all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris including branches and leaves. The department may issue restricted temporary burning permits if there is an essential reason due to public health and safety. For additional information on preparing for and preventing wildfires visit [www.ReadyForWildfire.Org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.Org).

- **Dry Well Reports:** As California enters the fourth consecutive summer of drought, Cal OES continues to monitor and identify communities and local water systems in danger of running out of water. Approximately 1,925 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, which affects an estimated 9,025 residents. As of June 11, Cal OES has reported that 1,681 of the 1,925 dry wells are concentrated in the inland regions within the Central Valley.
- **Vulnerable Water Systems:** The State Water Board continues to provide technical and funding assistance to several communities facing drinking water shortages, and is monitoring water systems across the state. Since January 2014, 81 out of the 104 projects approved to receive emergency funding for interim replacement drinking water have been executed. On May 19, the State Water Board adopted Guidelines for administering the latest emergency drought appropriations of \$19 million announced this past March. To date, the State Water Board has received requests for \$1.28 million of those funds.
- **Reservoir Levels (% capacity):** Since June 12, Central Valley reservoirs from Shasta and Trinity in the North to Isabella in the South had a net loss in storage of 208,056 acre-feet (AF), with total gains being 11,153 AF and total losses being 219,209 AF. Shasta has dropped 44,029 AF, Oroville has dropped 32,259 AF, Folsom has dropped 13,195 AF, and San Luis has dropped 60,257 AF. For more information, please visit the [California Data Exchange Center](#).

**Reservoir Levels** as of June 15 remain low, including: Castaic Lake 33% of capacity (38% of year to date average); Don Pedro 39% of capacity (50% of average); Exchequer 13% of capacity (19% of average); Folsom Lake 51% of capacity (61% of average); Lake Oroville 42% of capacity (51% of average); Lake Perris 39% (48% of average); Millerton Lake 33% of capacity (42% of average); New Melones 18% of capacity (28% of average); Pine Flat 28% of capacity (40% of average); San Luis 47% of capacity (66% of average); Lake Shasta 51% of capacity (61% of average); and Trinity Lake 40% of capacity (47% of average). An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

- **Recent Precipitation:** Over the past week, areas of the North Coast, Shasta Drainage, and Feather Basin received 0.1 to 2.0 inches of rainfall. The eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains from the American Basin down to the Kings Basin received 0.1 to 2.2 inches with the heavier amounts centered around Big Meadow in Mono County. Isolated thunderstorms over Santa Barbara County also produced about an inch of rain. Traces of rain were also observed in eastern coastal mountains and Imperial Valley.
- **Precipitation Forecast:** Last week, the Sierra Nevada Mountains received over an inch of rainfall in some areas, while most of the valley was dry. This week will be dry and warm with increasing temperatures possible into the weekend. No precipitation is expected statewide for the week.

### **Local Government**

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 57 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
  - **25 Counties:** El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Humboldt, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba.
  - **11 Cities:** City of Live Oak (Sutter County), City of Lodi (San Joaquin County), City of Manteca (San Joaquin County), City of Montague (Siskiyou County), City of Porterville (Tulare County), City of Portola (Plumas County), City of Ripon (San Joaquin County), City of San Juan Bautista (San Benito County), City of Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara County), and City of West Sacramento (Yolo County), and City of Willits (Mendocino County).
  - **9 Tribes:** Cortina Indian Rancheria (Colusa County), Hoopa Valley Tribe (Humboldt County), Karuk Tribe (Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties), Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria (Sonoma County), Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians (Madera County) Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe (Mendocino County), Tule River Indian Tribe (Tulare County), Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (Yolo County), and Yurok Tribe (Humboldt County).
  - **12 Special Districts:** Carpinteria Valley Water District (Santa Barbara County), Goleta Water District (Santa Barbara County), Groveland Community Services District (Tuolumne County), Lake Don Pedro Community Services District (Mariposa Stanislaus County), Mariposa Public Utility District (Mariposa County), Meiners Oaks Water District (Ventura County), Montecito Water District (Santa Barbara County), Mountain House Community Service District (San Joaquin County), Nevada Irrigation District (Nevada County), Placer County Water Agency (Placer County), Tuolumne Utilities District (Tuolumne County), and Twain Harte Community Services District (Tuolumne County).
- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies (AWCA) [has identified](#) several hundred local water agencies that have implemented water conservation actions. These water agencies [are responding to the drought](#) by implementing conservation programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water usage and mandatory restrictions where water shortages are worst.



- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 33 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yolo.
- **Tribal Taskforce:** A total of 5 tribes have established drought task forces to coordinate tribal drought response. These tribes include: Hoopa Valley Tribe (Humboldt County), Hopland Tribe (Mendocino County), Kashia Band of Pomo Indians (Sonoma County), Sherwood Valley Tribe (Mendocino County), and Yurok Tribe (Humboldt and Del Norte County).

#### **DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

##### **[Drought.CA.Gov](#): California's Drought Information Clearinghouse**

State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save our Water](#)  
Local Government, [Drought Clearinghouse and Toolkit](#)

California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)  
California Department of Water Resources, [Current Water Conditions](#)

California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)

California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)

California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)

State Water Resources Control Board, Drinking Water, [SWRCB Drinking Water Program](#)

California State Water Project, [Information](#)

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Current Conditions throughout the Region

[U.S. Drought Portal](#), National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

National Weather Service [Climate Predictor Center](#)

USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)

USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)

U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance Office: [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster)